GUIDE TO THE SV3 HAITI FILE

[The SV3 Haiti file is concerned with the French-speaking people of the République d'Haiti, which occupies the western third of the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean. The material in the file is mainly concerned with the Haitian-Creole-speaking peasantry during the present century. However, a good deal of material is presented on Haitian history and on the development of the national government, particularly in 3: Leyburn. The peasantry are primarily agricultural, being dependent on maize agriculture for their daily subsistence, but also growing sugarcane, cotton and coffee.

There are three sources in the file, all of them basic. All of them are written by American anthropologists who have done field work on the island. 3: Leyburn is the most general volume, giving an excellent overview of the island's cultural and political development. While the basic text is somewhat out of date, having been published in 1941, Sidney Mintz in his introduction brings it up to date through 1965 and elucidates some of Leyburn's arguments in so doing. 1: Herskovits is a study of peasant life in the district of Mirebalais in central Haiti in 1934, concentrating on religion, but also bringing in general social and economic descriptions. 2: Courlander presents a detailed description of Haitian religion and folklore. While there are only three sources in the file, they do present

a good picture of Haitian life and culture and the file should be adequate for most comparative purposes. Researchers should note that only the Mirebalais material is localized in time and space, while the data in the other sources have a shifting focus. The file was processed between 1966 and 1970.]